steps are being taken by Government to promote the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian State is one of several proposals under discussion. The matter is essentially one for the concerned parties to decide. India will fully support any action agreed to by them which will secure the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self determination and independence.

Delay in Delhi-Guwahati air service

662. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of flights to and from Delhi and Guwahati which had been delayed in 1988 till September by Indian Airlines; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Aircrafts fly in this line are sufficiently old and need urgent replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During the period January 1988 to September 1988, out of a total of 1,055 flights of Indian Airlines between Delhi and Guwahati. 437 were delayed, of which only 33 were in the control of Indian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

Raising of the Compensation money to Air Victims

663. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs for the air crash victims is too small;

(b) whether any proposal for raising this amount to Rs. 5 lakhs has been pending consideration by Government for long as reported in 'Sunday Observer' of 23rd October, 1988; and

(c) what compensation is paid to domestic passengers in US and various other European countries and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The carriers liability to make payment of compensation in the event of death or injury to passengers is governed by international instruments like Warsaw Convention 1929, as modified by the Hague Protocol 1955, The Carriage by Air Act, 1972 which flows out of the above Convention and Protocol prescribes a limit of liability on the Carrier. In 1973 this limit was raised from Rs. 42,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- for domestic carriage for a passenger of 12 years or more years of age. In 1980 this limit was raised from Rs. 1,00,000/- to Rs. 2,00,000/. Information relating to limit of liability in other countries is under collection.

Compulsory study of Sanskrit

664. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to popularise and for compulsory study of Sanskrit language in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): The Central Board of Secondary Education has this year revised the scheme of studies for secondary examinations from 1993 onwards to ensure adherence to provisions of National Policy on Education which would require a candidate to study Hindi, English and one of the modern Indian languages. Sanskrit will be taught along with Hindi to candidates taking Hindi 'A' level course Also candidates will be able to offer one of the seven classical and European languages, including Sanskrit, as an additional optional subject. The States have their own agencies

to work out and prescribe the scheme of studies to be followed by their schools. Besides this, the Government of India has also framed various schemes to give financial assistance to voluntary Sanskrit organisations to promote study of Sanskrit.

Modernisation of Indira Gandhi International Airport

665. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan under consideration to further modernise the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are main features of the plan;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) by when it would be completed/ modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are proposals to upgrade and modernise air traffic control systems and communication and navigation facilities in order to enhance the aircraft movement handling capabilities of the airport and to further expand the passenger handling capabilities of the international terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi.

The projects are at formative stages and the details are under finalisation.

Four-laning of National Highways

666. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan under consideration for conversion of National Highways into four lanes and two lanes roads, to avoid accidents and make faster traffic;

(b) if so, what are the names of such highways which are likely to be widened into four lanes and two lanes;

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been obtained for the purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the work on such Highways is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Development of National Highways including widening to 2 lanes and 4 lanes is a continuous process, depending upon intensity of traffic in terms of P.C.U. (Passenger Car Units) availability of funds and other inter-se priority of schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir. Details of schemes for which foreign assistance have been obtained are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below)

(d) The work on such highway projects is likely to be completed by 1993.

Statement

Name of the Projects

1. Widening to four-lanes Khanna-Jullundur Section of NH. 1 in Punjab.
2. Widening to four-lanes Murthal-Karnal Section of NH-1 in Haryana.
3. Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway (NH-8).
4. Varanasi-Byepass and Ganga Bridge (NH. 2).
5. New two lane road on the Calcutta-Durgapur Expressway alignment (NH. 2)
6. Widening to four lanes/strengthening two lanes in the Madras-Villupuram Section of NH. 45 in Tamil Nadu.